

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MOSCOW WORLD TRADE CENTER AND EXHIBITION COMPLEX

1. LEV V. IVANOV, DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR WORLD TRADE CENTER (WTC) AND INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS COMPLEX, USSR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, BRIEFED MONTHLY MEETING OF RESIDENT AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY FEBRUARY 10 ON CURRENT STATUS OF THESE PROJECTS. HE ALSO PROVIDED COPIES OF NEW FULL-COLOR BROCHURE ON CENTER AND COMPLEX, WHICH COMMERCIAL OFFICE POUCHING TO USDOC/BEWT/USSR-HEISS, USDOC/BEWT/TPD-THOMPSON AND EUR/SOV-EDGAR.

2. IVANOV CLAIMED WTC WILL BE IN OPERATION BY 1980 MOSCOW OLYMPICS BUT ADMITTED THAT BOTH TRANSIENT HOTEL (600 ROOMS FOR 1140 GUESTS) AND CONFERENCE HALL MIGHT BE USED INITIALLY AS OLYMPIC FACILITIES RATHER THAN BEING TURNED OVER IMMEDIATELY TO FOREIGN BUSINESS COMMUNITY. ASKED IF FIRMS WOULD BE FORCED TO MOVE OFFICES TO CENTER, HE SAID THERE WOULD BE NO COMPULSION, EXCEPT FOR THE COMPANIES NOW OCCUPYING 180 MOSCOW HOTEL ROOMS, WHICH INTOURIST IS EAGER TO REPOSSESS. HE INDICATED, MOREOVER, THAT 23,000 SQUARE METERS IN WTC OFFICE BUILDING WILL NOT EVEN ACCOMMODATE 130 FOREIGN FIRMS NOW ACCREDITED IN MOSCOW, FOR CHAMBER POLL HAS SHOWN MOST WOULD WANT OFFICES WITH 250-400 SQUARE METERS. (RESIDENTIAL HOTEL APPRENTLY COULD ALSO NOT HOUSE RESIDENT FOREIGN BUSINESS COMMUNITY AS IT WILL OFFER ONLY 25 SUITES WITH FOUR OR MORE ROOMS, 200 THREE -ROOM
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APARTMENTS (125 SQUARE METERS), 200 TWO-ROOM APARTMENTS

(80 SQUARE METERS), AND 200STUDIOS (45 SQUARE METERS).

IVANOV CONCEDED THAT ONE POSSIBLE SOLUTION BEING CONSIDERED IS TO ALLOW THOSE FIRMS ALREADY INSTALLED IN MOSCOW OFFICES AT TIME OF WTC OPENING TO MAINTAIN CURRENT OFFICE SPACE WHILE GRANTING THEM SMALL "FRONT OFFICE" IN WTC. SPACE IN CENTER CAN BE RESERVED WITH PAYMENT OF DEPOSIT IN 1977 AFTER CHAMBER SETS RATES.

3. TURNING TO ADJOINING EXHIBITION COMPLEX, IVANOV SAID GROUND WILL BE BROKEN APRIL 1 AND FIRST SHOW WILL BE OCTOBER 1977 CHEMISTRY EXHIBITION OR ONE OF THREE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITIONS SCHEDULED FOR 1978. ALL FIVE PAVILIONS COMPRISING 60,000 SQUARE METER FIRST STAGE WILL HAVE BEEN COMPLETED IN 1979, HE PREDICTED, BUT NO TARGET DATE SET FOR SECOND STAGE, WHICH WILL BRING TOTAL FLOOR SPACE TO 120,000 SQUARE METERS. EXHIBITION FACILITIES AT SOKOLNIKI PARK WILL BE PHASED OUT AS NEW COMPLEX COMES ON STREAM. STOESSEL

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